



**United States Border Patrol  
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# **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**July 13, 2000**

## **NORTH COUNTY CHECKPOINTS FIND HIDDEN MARIJUANA AND CASH**

**SAN CLEMENTE, CA:** On July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2000 at approximately 10:30AM, Agents at the San Clemente Checkpoint sent a white pick up truck to the secondary inspection area after the driver initially failed to stop at the stop sign in the primary inspection area. While interviewing the driver as to his immigration status, one of the agents noticed a large rock sitting by itself in the bed of the pick up truck, giving the impression that the rock was holding the bedliner down. The agent then asked for and received permission from the driver to perform a search of the vehicle with a K-9. During the search, the K-9 alerted to the odor of narcotics in the taillight region of the truck. A further search of the truck revealed a total of 24 cellophane wrapped bundles of marijuana weighing in at approximately 86 lbs. with an estimated street value of \$68,960.00. The bundles were found in the side panels, underneath the front dashboard, and in between the bed and bedliner of the truck.

The driver, a Mexican male national, along with the 86 lbs. of marijuana was turned over to the DEA for further investigation.

**TEMECULA, CA:** On July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2000 at approximately 1:15AM, Agents working the Temecula Checkpoint were conducting an immigration inspection at the primary inspection area when a red sedan drove up behind the vehicle that was being inspected. Agents in the secondary inspection area noticed that the people in the front of the red sedan appeared to be trying, in a rushed manner, to move something into the center console of the car. At the same time, the passenger in the back seat of the vehicle also appeared to be trying to move something in a hurried manner towards the center area of the rear seat.

When the red sedan pulled into the primary inspection area the agents noticed a strong smell of perfume inside the vehicle and when questioned the driver appeared nervous. The vehicle was sent to the secondary inspection area for additional questioning. While at secondary, the agents received permission from the driver to search the vehicle. An initial search revealed two marijuana cigarettes inside the center console. A subsequent

search revealed roughly 4.4 lbs. of marijuana wrapped in heat sealed bags and \$11,071.00, in cash, concealed under the driver's front seat and rear seat armrest area. Agents also found assorted drug paraphernalia including a glass pipe, a digital scale and a Food Sealer unit.

All suspects, narcotics, currency, and related evidence were turned over to the Riverside County Special Investigations Bureau for further investigation.

Since the beginning of the of fiscal year (October 1, 1999) the Checkpoints at San Clemente and Temecula have accounted for 364 marijuana seizures totaling 9,685 lbs. with an estimated street value of \$7,768,465,39. They have also seized over \$60,000.00 in U.S. currency.

**Video of the July 12<sup>th</sup> San Clemente seizure will be available at the U.S. Border Patrol Public Information Office**